

**MHDS COMMISSION**  
**August 19, 2021**  
**9:30 am to 11:30 am**  
**Zoom – Draft**

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**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betsy Akin	Timothy Perkins
Sarah Berndt	Jeff Sorensen
Rep. Dennis Bush	Cory Turner
Teresa Daubitz	Richard Whitaker
Don Kass	Lorrie Young
June Klein-Bacon	

**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Diane Brecht	Shari O'Bannon
Sen. Jeff Edler	Maria Sorensen
Janee Harvey	Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott
Rep. Lindsay James	Russell Wood

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Rob Aiken	Todd Lange
Theresa Armstrong	Theresa Lewis
Kris Bell	Carrie Malone
Emily Berry	Dawn Mentzer
Lisa Bringle	Caitlin Owens
Shane Buer	John Parmeter
Teresa Bomhoff	Cheryl Plank
Morgan Casey	Libby Reekers
Wendy DePhillips	Flora Schmidt
Marissa Eyanson	Susan Seehase
Natalie Ginty	Gloria Symons
John Hedgecoth	Casey Westhoff
Kathy Johnson	Gano Whetstone
Linda Kellen	Dr. Nancy Williams

**Materials Referenced:**

*June 17, 2021 MHDS Commission Meeting Minutes*  
*July 15, 2021 MHDS Commission Meeting Minutes*  
*July 30, 2021 MHDS Commission Meeting Minutes*  
*Rolling Hills Management Plan – Amended 7.9.21*  
*Rolling Hills Management Plan Changes – July 2021*  
*Assertive Community Treatment in Iowa: Progress and Challenges PowerPoint Presentation*

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Lorrie Young called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and led introductions. Quorum was established with ten voting members attending virtually.

## **Review and Vote on Approval of June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Tim Perkins made a motion to approve the June 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Teresa Daubitz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Review and Vote on Approval of July 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Rich Whitaker made a motion to approve the July 15, 2021 meeting minutes. Don Kass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Review and Vote on Approval of July 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Sarah Berndt made a motion to approve the July 30, 2021 meeting minutes noting the correction that Representative Dennis Bush should be reflected as attending. Rich Whitaker seconded the motion with this change. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Mental Health and Disability Services Regional Management Plan Amendment – Rolling Hills**

Rob Aiken, Community Consultant Specialist, Department of Human Services introduced Dawn Mentzer, Regional CEO, Rolling Hills Community Services Region. Dawn reviewed updates the Region's management plan. Changes included adding Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties to the geographical area served as well as the access points for these two additional counties. Don Kass motioned to recommend approval of the changes. Rich Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Assertive Community Treatment as an Evidenced-Based Practice**

Nancy William, M.D., Medical Director, IMPACT Program, Department of Clinical Outreach, University of Iowa Health Care, Carver College of Medicine presented an overview of the Assertive Community Treatment Model as well as the progress and challenges faced in Iowa.

Lorrie Young opened discussion for public comment, specifically those in attendance who are currently operating ACT programs in the state who may have questions or want to share their experiences with the model. There was discussion regarding Managed Care Organizations authorizations, and issues with understanding the long-term nature, and the specific admission criteria of the ACT program and the need for ongoing education regarding this program. There was also discussion regarding the use of discharge readiness tools supplied by the MCOs and how its use has helped in the justification of not discharging some individuals who were not yet ready to leave the program. Finally, there was conversation regarding the need for providers to be clinically accountable to the population that utilizes the ACT program as well as accountability to the system, and how to make best use of the dollars provided.

## **MHDS Update**

Cory Turner, Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Disability Services, Facilities provided an update on the Boys State Training School in Eldora (STS), as well as COVID, the summer legislative tour of the facilities, the U.S. Department of Justice investigation and facility workforce.

State Training School has had litigation that culminated in a correction plan, which began last summer. DHS has been working through this plan for the last year and has been very positive facilitating a lot of policy and actions. There has been recent news coverage of violence at the facility. DHS is looking at ways to provide more intensive treatment for violent or aggressive youth. The superintendent at STS has recently resigned, and staff is working on stabilizing and capitalizing on gains earned over the last year. There has been a greater focus on therapeutic treatment versus corrections focus. One illustration of this is that STS has increased from one staff psychologist to seven psychologists on staff, which provide a greater range of services.

DHS is doing some serial testing at facilities in counties with higher COVID rate, which include Independence Mental Health Institute and Glenwood State Resource Center. There has been a legislative tour of the facilities over the summer. This provided an opportunity to show legislators and administrators the needs and concerns of the facilities as well as what the facilities are doing well. Woodward State Resource Center is the only facility left on the tour and that visit will be taking place on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The DOJ investigation has been a topic of conversation as DHS works towards a consent decree. Workforce is also an overarching issue that is impacting the facilities ability to operate. The COVID-19 virus has been the main reason for the workforce issue. DHS is looking at new ways to entice people to work for state government and specifically the state facilities.

#### Administrative Rules

The administrative rules for Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) are progressing. Work has been done with the MHDS Commission Administrative Rules Committee. DHS still needs to convene a stakeholder group, per Iowa Code, to review these rules. This meeting is scheduled to take place on September 8<sup>th</sup>. DHS has been granted emergency rulemaking authority per SF619 related to the incentive fund that was created for the MHDS Regions. The authority is specific to the first couple of fiscal years, and is related to timeframes for applications, application due dates, minimal requirements for review of the application, and notification to regions. DHS met with the MHDS Commission Administrative Rules Committee to review these rules on August 9<sup>th</sup> and is targeting to bring the rules to the September MHDS Commission meeting. As these are emergency rules, when the package is presented in September it will be for approval of the rules, as emergency rules don't have the public notice period. Other rules related to SF619 that will affect Chapter 25 will take more time. DHS is targeting to bring these rules to MHDS Commission at the December meeting. There may be a push on this due needing additional stakeholder input. DHS is looking at the first week or two in October to meet with the MHDS Commission Administrative Rules Committee regarding these rules and asks for volunteers for this committee. Sarah Berndt, Don Kass, and Lorrie Young volunteered to serve on the committee. Russell Wood was also nominated to participate. DHS is required to also work with the MHDS Regions on these rules and suggested reaching out to Regional CEOs to get a couple volunteers to also participate with the committee. Commission members thought that this was a good plan.

#### IDPH/DHS Alignment

Work is continuing specifically with regards to stakeholder input including both internal and external stakeholders. Internal change agents made up of DHS and IDPH staff are looking closely at connection points including accessing systems, services, contracts, etc. These are short-term

groups. The contractor, PCG will be reaching out to external stakeholders for more input and having more conversations as well as providing additional updates.

There was discussion regarding if there would be a preliminary report. Summaries may be made available in the future prior to a report. Individuals are referred to the website <https://hhsalignment.iowa.gov> for updates and information.

#### Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

The Community Mental Health Block Grant (CMHBG) Plan is due to SAMHSA by September 1, 2021. The Substance Abuse Block Grant Plan is due by October 1, 2021. DHS and IDPH have been working together closely to align some of the priorities between the two plans. MHDS also worked with the Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council on input for the CMHBG plan. The plan is looking at 9-8-8, workforce, peer support, as well as other topics. DHS hopes to have the CMHBG plan out for public comment next week with a plan to have it up for 5 to 7 days.

Additional funding from SAMHSA has been awarded. \$385K over the next four years. This award is given for COVID mitigation efforts for individuals with serious mental illness. DHS has a plan due to SAMHSA by October 2, 2021. DHS is working closely with IDPH on how these dollars might support work that is already happening.

The American Rescue Plan (\$11M) has been submitted, but not yet approved. The plan builds on the COVID Care dollars already received. DHS is doing some Requests for Proposal (RFPs) looking at expanding Systems of Care programs, providing dollars for the development and support of peer-run organizations and peer-run services, dollars for Projects for Assistance for Transition from Homelessness (PATH) for more outreach, as well as supports for evidence-based practices.

#### COVID Recovery Iowa

DHS has received a cost increase extension for the FEMA grant for COVID Recovery Iowa. This extension is for another six months and will run through December 9, 2021. COVID Recovery Iowa is for mental health outreach and utilizes the Abbe Center Warm Line as well as the Iowa Concern Line and provided virtual counseling appointments, referrals for housing, funding resources, substance use disorder services, health services, as well as FEMA and building resources. FEMA has also approved COVID Recovery staff going out into the community. Since May 22, 2020 until August 11, 2021 there have been over 650,000 contacts. These numbers are not non-duplicative.

#### **Planning for Future Meetings**

Lorrie Young asked if there were any items that members would like included on the agenda for future meetings. It was noted that September's meeting was full, but if there were topics that members wanted at the joint meeting with the Planning Council in October or the December meeting to share this information so contacts can be made. Commission members discussed having an update from the Workforce Committee that will be meeting soon. There was also discussion regarding the three competing social determinates of health platforms that provider referral handoffs, as these platforms don't work talk to each other. It was also noted that SyncHealth, out of Nebraska, bought the Iowa Health Information Network (IHIN) Group, which were the Health Information Exchange (HIE). More information about this would be helpful as well.

There was also discussion about an update from the Brain Injuries Advisory Council who has been working through a new 5-year plan.

There was discussion regarding keeping the September MHDS Commission meeting virtual due to the increase in COVID diagnoses throughout the state.

There was also discussion regarding recent increases in the needs for veterans due to the issues with Afghanistan. The Veteran's Crisis Line number was shared with the group 1-800-273-8255 press 1 or text 838255.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Adjourn**

Betsy Akin motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Tim Perkins. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.